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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPT. 4. 1847.

## THE INFANCY OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC ART, CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.

(Continued from Page 78.)

Different opinions are held in the homœopathic school, on the doses of medicine. This, we think, does not arise so much from intricacy in the subject itself, as from the mode of investigating it. How far drugs should be attenuated to fit them for use; and how often the dose should be repeated in the treatment of the sick, can only be determined by observation and experiment. We hazard nothing in asserting, that had experience alone been the test in this matter, a harmony in views, and a uniformity in practice, would have prevailed in the school, on doses. On the contrary, when, as has been the case, the pernicious theories of the allopathic school are used, to determine

questions of this sort, they must forever remain unsettled. Already, so great is the confusion into which this subject has been thrown, that some think the doses of medicine comparatively unimportant. We have said, on a former occasion, that if the doctrine of small doses were given up, the remaining part of homœopathy, would soon be embraced by the profession generally. A year ago, we qualified this sentiment; but now we are convinced that it is true.

After much reflection and some experience, we have come to the conclusion, that the doses of medicine, as recommended by Hahnemann, are an essential part of his system; and if abandoned, its utility would be nearly destroyed. In truth, to prescribe for the sick, agreeably to the law of cure, and administer the "mother tinctures," or crude drugs, must of necessity, be attended with pernicious effects. Therefore, when it is said that he who adopts the law, *similia similibus curantur*, should be recognized as a member of the homœopathic school, without regard to the doses he may employ; a hand is reached out in aid of allopathy. Did not Hahnemann know what he was about when he said? "I say the smallest dose, since it will stand good as a homœopathic rule of cure, refutable by no experience whatever, that the best dose of the rightly selected medicine is ever the smallest, and in one of the higher developements for chronic as well as acute diseases—a truth which is the invaluable property of pure homœopathy, and which, so long as allopathy (and what is but little short of it, the practice of the new mongrel sect, consisting in a combination of allopathy and homœopathy,) continues to gnaw, like a cancer, upon the vitals of diseased human beings, and to destroy them with large doses of medicine, will separate these pretended arts by an immeasurable gulf from homœopathy." Again he says:—"A dose, stronger than necessary,

(even of the most homœopathic remedy,) acts with too great violence, and plunges the moral and intellectual faculties into such disorder, that it is impossible to discover quickly any amendment that takes place. I must observe, in this place, that it is the common fault of physicians who go from the old school of medicine over to the homœopathic to violate this most important rule. Blinded by prejudice, they avoid small doses of medicines, attenuated to the highest degree, and thus deprive themselves of the great advantages which experience has a thousand times proved to result from them: they cannot accomplish that which the true homœopathist is capable of doing, and yet they falsely declare themselves his disciples." These declarations were made in 1810, and experience, since that period, has established their truth.

The question of doses does not embrace the different attenuations; but the issue is, between these and the "mother tinctures." We have before us the testimony of those who seldom or never use attenuated medicines, in practice; and that of those who seldom or never employ the "mother tinctures." That of the former must be rejected, as they have no experience in the matter. Very lately, we were in conversation with a pretended disciple of Hahnemann, who was violent in denouncing the "small doses." We inquired of him,—Have you ever used the attenuated medicines, in the treatment of disease? His reply was: "I have not." This, most likely, is the case with all, or nearly so, of those who reject the doctrine of the "dynamization of drugs." They cannot be considered any more authority in the premises, than the most rabid allopathist, who opposes homœopathy, before he has examined it.

We do not deny but that cures may be effected with crude medicines, at the same time, we do deny, that they are the most suitable, for they utterly fail in very many cases of acute diseases, while their use is attended with danger. In chronic diseases, they seldom effect a cure, of which there is ample testimony from those who have employed them. We must, rely upon the evidence of those of experience in the use of the attenuations; among whom, it cannot be denied, are found the most learned, industrious, observant, experienced and successful practitioners of the school. Of these, we will name:

Hahnemann, Rumel, Gross, Croserio, Simon

Leon, Stapf, Currie, and a host of others in Europe.

The writings of Hahnemann, especially his *Organon*, are so generally read by those who look carefully into homœopathy, that it is not needful for us to make large quotations from them, but refer those who want information on this subject to the above work. He says, "It has been fully proved by pure experiments, that when a disease does not evidently depend upon the impaired state of an important organ, even though it were of a chronic nature, and complicated, and due care has been taken to remove from the patient all foreign medicinal influence, the dose of the homœopathic remedy can never be sufficiently small, so as to be inferior to the power of the natural disease, which it can, at least, partially extinguish and cure, provided it be capable of producing only a small increase of symptoms, immediately after it is administered."

This incontrovertible axiom, founded upon experience, will serve as a rule, by which the doses of all homœopathic medicines, without exception, are to be attenuated to such a degree, that after being introduced into the body, they shall merely produce an almost insensible aggravation of the disease. It is of little import whether the attenuation goes so far as to appear almost impossible to ordinary physicians, whose minds feed on no other ideas but what are gross and material. All their arguments and vain assertions will be of little avail, when opposed to the dictates of unerring experience."

Our limits will not allow extended extracts from the illustrious discoverer of the mode of attenuating medicines; his works should be not only read, but studied, and an ample reward will succeed such labor.

No one, that we know of, has ever prescribed the attenuated medicines, in the way pointed out by Hahnemann, and failed to obtain his results. In this country, we could enumerate hundreds who have a large practice, and who have testified in favor of attenuated drugs, from long and daily observation of their effects upon the sick.

And, finally, as to the doses, they are so peculiarly a matter of experience and observation, that we are at a loss to account for all that has been written on the subject. It is undoubtedly a useless and a thankless task to attempt to convince some minds, by any process of reasoning, by any philosophical considerations, or by the arrayal of a thousand analogies in nature, relating to the action of imponderable agents,

that medicines, in the attenuated or dynamized form, do have, and should have, power to disturb the vital action, in health, and to restore its harmony when deranged by disease. Neither, it would seem, will the accumulated testimony of competent physicians, who habitually use medicines in the attenuated form, serve to remove from their mental vision the mist of prejudice, or affected contempt, which befores and blinds them. *It is in the power of every physician to test the action of dynamized medicines*, and if he distrusts the observations and conclusions of his colleagues, he can determine for himself the power and value of the small doses. For the doctrine of the superior safety and efficacy of small doses of medicine, we have no fears. The judgment of experience will eventually settle the truth of it. That any rule can be devised to determine the degree of attenuation to be universally adopted, we think absurd. This must ever be subject to the judgment and tact of the physician, guided, in a general way, by the experience of others. Some cases requiring larger; others, smaller doses.

So far, then, as the success of the homœopathic art is related to the mode of the preparation of the medicines, we may safely assert, that the method devised by Hahnemann, cannot be improved, since experience has fully demonstrated either the inutility, the insufficiency, or the danger of using large doses of crude medicines upon the homœopathic law, and the absolute power and curative effects of small doses, or comminuted medicines; and since the processes of trituration and succussion involve all the means of dynamizing, comminuting, or making fine the medicines to be employed. It is possible, that some improvement or modification in the manner of preparing the attenuations, suggested by the chemical properties of the materials employed, may be effected; but this cannot affect the doctrine of potentization, while, it should be remembered, that the substances employed for curative purposes, should always be prepared in the same manner in which they were used for obtaining their pathogenesis.

It will, however, be conceded, that the attenuated medicines, as directed to be prepared by Hahnemann, have been found efficient whenever they have been employed; and that the testimony of associated and isolated physicians, on this point, from all quarters of the globe, is too direct and too positive to be

discredited, and the success attending their use too general to be affectingly contemned.

Thus we have seen both the science and the art of homœopathy supplied with well matured and incontrovertible principles, which will scarcely be modified—never subverted. We have seen in the unparalleled success which has attended the diffusion of these principles, and the practical workings of the whole system, abundant reason to predict its final and full establishment; and that, for it, its friends have no occasion to plead the *baby-act*.

Hahnemann's doctrine of dynamic diseases, and of the dynamization of remedial agents; the law of cure, and means of applying it, are destined to exist until mankind have ceased to suffer from the evils which false and absurd theories have entailed upon them.

#### CURES WITH UNDILUTED MEDICINES.

The July number of the *British Journal of Homœopathy* has a long list of cases treated with undiluted medicines, by Dr. G. Schmid. That Dr. Schmid treated these cases with undiluted medicines, that they are fairly reported, and that the results he obtained were as he states, we have no reason to doubt; but that they serve to demonstrate, in any degree, the superiority of this mode of treatment, we are prepared to deny. To us, they only go to prove the general and well established principle, that medicines will cure abnormal conditions, similar to such as they are capable of producing. Had Dr. Schmid given all the cases he had treated in this manner, supposing the treatment of all the cases, falling under his own care, to have been the same, he would have enabled the profession to make a more correct estimate of the comparative value of his mode of treatment.

It would, we are sure, be no very difficult task for any physician, who has an extensive practice, and who uses undiluted medicines, to make a similar parade of cases treated, and *really*, or apparently cured *by the treatment*. But let him make an exhibition of the cases in which such treatment fails, and if he were very tenacious of his mode of treatment, he might attribute his want of success to bad management in other respects; while many others would not fail to impute it to his large doses. On the other hand, innumerable cases of cures by potentized medicines, quite as striking, and far more prompt, are made and recorded by

physicians, than whom, none in the school are more competent to observe and decide, and none more worthy respect and confidence.

If the attenuated medicines have power to cure at all, which but few doubt, a little reflection would satisfy any one that there are cases, in which the employment of these last would be far preferable and far safer.

*A resort to such practice is unnecessary.* Because experience has fully demonstrated the superior safety and efficiency, and a more extended applicability of smaller doses—while it is conceded, that cures may be effected upon the homœopathic law, but in a comparatively limited number of cases, by large doses.

*Such practice is attended with danger.* Because medicines, homœopathically prescribed, acting upon the parts already diseased, capable of producing, in health, similar derangements of the vital power, to those for which they are prescribed, must inevitably, in very many cases, overwhelm the organism, and put it beyond the power of reaction. This is alike a matter of inference from the principles involved, and the actual result of such practice, as attested to by Hahnemann and hundreds of others, whose testimony, did it favor the prejudices of those interested, would be held invaluable.

*Cures, thus effected, by large doses, are not always permanent.* Where the diseases thus treated are the result of a peculiar diathesis, or predisposition, this is rather strengthened and confirmed than broken up, by the over-action of the medicine—being homœopathic—and the disorder is liable to return. This result might, like the foregoing, be presumed for the same reasons, and is also remarked by observant practitioners.

*The cures wrought by large doses, administered in accordance with the homœopathic law, are not always effected upon the reactive principle, but upon the alterative principle.* The action of the drugs is either substituted for the disease, or its specific effects are established in other than the diseased parts. The abnormal action is thus diverted, and the organism, for the time, it may be, is better enabled to overcome the disease: whereas, it is clear, that the dose should be only of such strength as that the system can, at the same time, react against both the disease and the medicine.

This is especially true of medicines, not entirely homœopathic, when given in large and repeated doses. They often more readily produce the desired alterative effects, than medicines when given mixed or compounded, and not

at all homœopathic. Hence the frequent satisfactory results obtained by allopathic prescriptions. Hence their confusion when they witness adverse results from the same prescription, when given in cases which they deem similar and class under the same name. Such practice is full of danger, and its results, at best, but palliative.

*Drug diseases may be produced by large doses of medicine.* Though, for the time, a cure may be wrought, the specific action of the medicine becomes subsequently developed. The manner of testing drugs, by which their pathogenesis is obtained, proves that this may be so; and we might refer to many recorded cases, and collect many others from our own, and the observation of intelligent colleagues, to show that it is so.

Admitting, as we do, that cures may be effected with crude medicines, upon the homœopathic law, we will not undertake to say, that large doses, or undiluted medicines, should never be employed, nor to determine in what kind of cases they should be used, if used at all. We confess that our experience is quite limited in their use. We do not now use them at all; and, we may add, that the success of the attenuations, in our hands, rarely leaves us an opportunity to suspect that it would be proper or better to do so.

Were we called upon to advise the new beginner in the practice of our art, upon the subject of doses, we should say to him,—"Provide yourself with all the medicines, carefully prepared, from the tinctures, or the first dilutions and triturations, up to the highest dynamizations.

"To employ, in various cases, a like various degree of the attenuated medicine, and the tinctures; and if he possessed an observing and comprehensive mind, we should add, that his own experience would soon enable him to decide on a wide range of dilutions, and to determine, very readily, from the general appearance of the patient, and the nature of the case, and his knowledge of the medicine, about the dose it would be best to employ.

We should caution him in the employment of large doses in particular cases, as that of Belladonna, in inflammation of the brain; of Phosphorous, in inflammation of the lungs; of Arsenic, veratum, or cuprum, in inflammation of the stomach,—because the vital action being already determined upon those organs, and large doses, acting upon the same parts, would tend to increase and greatly aggravate the dis-

ease, and hazard or prolong the cure. This it is reasonable to infer, may be done, is often done, and that the over-action of the drug is mistaken for severe and obstinate cases of disease; also, when in such or the like cases, a large dose had been given, to be exceedingly cautious in the continued repetition of it.

"To watch closely the effect of his doses, and to keep a record of all the changes which followed their administration."

That "some rule for the dose" will ever be discovered, we do not believe; nor is it necessary, for, having a wide range of preparations, they may be used according to the judgment and tact of the physician, and in which the ability to discriminate properly, and select happily, will always distinguish the skillful practitioner: and all that, in our judgment, need be insisted upon, is, that every one should add to the experience of others, in the use of the various doses, that of his own.

[Before giving these cases, Dr. Schmid reminds the reader that they are not intended as complete histories of cures of diseases, but merely such parts as bear distinctly on the subject, and illustrate clearly the effect of some individual medicines in a certain dose.]

We shall publish some of these cases of Dr. Schmid, and also some cases cured with the attenuated medicines. These last are selected at random from our own practice. We shall, in another number, give more of both classes of cases.

#### *Cases Treated with Undiluted Medicines.*

A girl, of two years and a half old, had been affected with diarrhoea for several weeks; the stools were frequent, fluid, frothy, acrid, and very fetid, accompanied by much flatulence. The belly was distended; the appetite small; frequent fetid eructation; the sleep at night restless and interrupted; the temperature of the skin changeable, at one time cold and at another warm; complexion earthy, and looks unhealthy; the child was weak and fretful, and had a frequent short cough.

On the 10th of December, 1844, I gave 6 drops of the pure Tincture of Arnica in about three ounces of water, to be taken in six doses in the course of twenty-four hours.

This remedy was continued for the three following days with such good effect, that, on the 15th, not only all the functions were natu-

ral, but the little one was again strong and cheerful, playing about as usual.

A boy, of six years of age, who had been ill for two months, was seen by me for the first time on the 3d of February, 1845. Of a naturally lively and cheerful disposition, he had become gradually cross, lazy, weaker and thinner, and looked very ill. His appetite is very small; the fecal evacuations irregular; at one time firm, scanty, whitish and unfrequent; at another, frequent and pappy. For the last fourteen days he was attacked every evening with heat and increased thirst, restless sleep and morning sweating, frequent cough, with copious expectoration of tough, greenish mucus; the nostrils also are often filled with similar mucus.

All these symptoms had gradually increased to such a degree, that he was seized on the 2d of February with distinct fever, and could no longer remain out of bed. On the forenoon of the 3d I found the pulse above 90, the head hot, the cavity of the mouth, the tongue, and tonsils remarkably pale and dry, the last being also swollen, the stomach distended and sensitive, even to slight touch and to inspiration; the abdomen likewise distended, besides the above-mentioned symptoms in an increased degree. I gave *Belladonna* in the dose of one drop of the tincture six times in the course of twenty-four hours.

The night of the 3d of February was passed in quieter sleep, and in the morning moderate perspiration came on. Next morning there was considerable relief of all symptoms. The medicine was continued in the same dose and repetition till the 6th of February, when it was reduced to five doses daily, and on the 9th to four doses. On the 12th the medicine was discontinued, and the boy was quite well and all the symptoms gone.

A man near forty had suffered for two years from cramp in the stomach, as he himself termed his disorder. It consisted in the following:—The stomach becomes constricted and squeezed together, so that the breathing is thereby impeded; then an acrid corrosive fluid rises into the mouth (waterbrash) in large quantity. Such an attack has come on for a long time daily, at least once. There is, besides, diminished appetite and bad digestion, torpid and irregular bowels, and the abdomen distended with troublesome flatu-

lence. The patient had hitherto been treated allopathically, and had used a great variety of medicines, but all without benefit.

I gave him *Bryonia* in the dose of four drops of the concentrated tincture four times a day.

Already on the following and immediately subsequent days the patient felt only threatening of his trouble. After that he had no further complaint during the time he continued the medicine, which he earnestly requested to be allowed to do for several weeks, in order completely to eradicate his disease of two years' standing. At the same time the digestion and action of the bowels returned to their normal state.

The patient has, up to the present time—already above a year—had no return of his complaint.

On the 14th of March, 1844, I was sent for to a puerperal female who had been delivered the day before. The afterpains and the great hemorrhage and prostration of strength had excited apprehension. She complained of the sensation of inward heat and anxiety. The pulse was feeble and intermittent, and slightly increased in frequency. Fœtid odor of the mouth and perspiration, tongue moist and dirty, coated in the middle, frequent eructation, bowels torpid. She received twelve drops of the tincture of *Crocus*, in about four ounces of water, of which two table spoonfuls were to be taken every hour. Next day she was quite well, and afterwards suffered no further inconvenience.

On the 31st of July, 1844, I was sent for in a great hurry to see a patient who lay in a state of great weakness, bordering on syncope. I found him in a cold sweat, with a very quick, empty and weak pulse. He had several loose stools, which were quite white, like a solution of starch, and which were passed with fatiguing straining, and followed by excessive prostration of strength and failure of his senses. There was no nausea or vomiting. I gave *Veratrum*, a dose every half hour till he felt better and then to be continued every hour. On the 2d of August he was out of bed, and on the 3d able to return to his usual occupation.

The patient was a girl of four years old, of pale and delicate appearance, with a swelled belly, and often suffered from irregularity of the bowels. Towards the end of November,

1844, she was attacked with diarrhœa, and, according to the report of the father, it was at first accompanied with violent fever, but afterwards of a slow character. The evacuations are preceded with pains which were at first violent, but now milder; the evacuated matters are chiefly white and flocculent. She passes from three to six motions daily. The urine is scanty and turbid, with a white mucons sediment. The child is shy and cross, and disinclined to play. On the 18th of December, she got from me *Hyd. mur. mite*, in the dose of three grains of the 1st trituration (5 gr. to 300) five times a day; continued for the four following days, three times a day.

On the 20th, the diarrhœa had ceased, and there was no stool at all till the 23d, when it returned, and has continued regular and daily since; the urine has regained its natural appearance, and the patient is in other respects quite well.

A boy, of five months old, had diarrhœa. His mother was at the time ill of typhus, for which reason the infant had been weaned. The stools are mixed with matters like chopped eggs, acrid, and excoriating the anus, and are passed frequently, with much flatus. The infant is weak and feverish. On the 25th of December, I gave *Hyd. mur. mite*, in the above trituration, (three grains,) four times a day. Next day the diarrhœa had ceased, and the child was lively and well.

#### Cases treated with the Attenuated Medicines.

A little boy of one and a half years old, had been afflicted with diarrhœa for several weeks. The stools were frequent, slimy, green and foetid. There was a hard, sometimes suffocative, and somewhat loose cough. Frequent nausea, and vomiting of undigested food. The appetite poor; loss of flesh and strength; haggard look; great restlessness and irritability; sleepless at night, and required constant attention. In the course of 24 hours after the administration of one dose of *Sepia* 30, the diarrhœa was stopped, the other symptoms were relieved, and the child soon regained unusual good health, strength and flesh.

A little girl three years old of a scrofulous diathesis. Had never been healthy. Was subject to the following sufferings. She had been especially troubled with them for some time, when first prescribed for homœopathically. She was very cross and irritable; required con-

stant attention, but yet often refused to be taken care of or held; had a sickly look; was thin and weak. Her appetite was poor, or entirely gone; stools small, often green and slimy, sometimes frequent. Heat at night, with restlessness, tossing, frequent waking with fright and crying. These symptoms were at once relieved with one or two doses of Bell. 30, and the health of the child improved and soon become good.

A married lady had been suffering from violent spasmodic pains in the stomach. The attacks came on at intervals, often at night, and were severe. There was tenderness on pressure over the stomach, loss of appetite and dejection of spirits. This had lasted two or three weeks. A blister on the stomach, and some cathartic or anodyne mixture, to be taken internally, had been prescribed. After a single dose of Nux vom. 30, at night, there was no repetition of the suffering.

A woman about forty years old, having slight inflammation of the eye-lids was induced to apply a wash which some person prescribed to her for the purpose. The eyes were cured, but in a few days after, she complained of pain and heaviness in the head, with dizziness, diminution of hearing, diminution of sight, and, at times, loss of consciousness; she thought she was "losing her senses," was constantly in fear of falling, and had, once or twice, fallen from her chair insensible upon the floor. Two doses of Belladonna 30, were prescribed, one at night and one the following morning, which afforded immediate relief, and in a day or two she was restored to usual health, with a reappearance of the inflammation of the eye-lids.

A boy 4 years old, was suddenly attacked with violent vomiting and diarrhœa. Ipecac. and Arsenicum had been given without benefit. Several hours had elapsed, since the commencement of the attack, when we saw him, and found him with cold extremities, cold face, cold tongue and breath. He was pale and prostrated; his pulse feeble. He was excessively thirsty and restless. He continually begged for water, which, however little was taken, induced violent retching and vomiting. Stools frequent, involuntary, and of a white and thin substance. Involuntary urination.

Two pellets of Veratrum 12, were put upon his tongue, after which he vomited but once, and had but one passage from his bowels. In

an hour he became warm, was comfortable throughout the day, and the next day was playing out of doors as usual.

A man, thirty years old, had violent headache with dizziness. The pain was mostly across the forehead above the eye-lids. He had nausea, and vomiting of food and drink, with pain and tenderness in the region of the stomach, could keep nothing on his stomach. Had been treated allopathically, bled, cathartised, etc., to no purpose but to sicken and weaken him. He took two doses of Nux vomica 6; after which he had no return of the vomiting nor the headache, and soon resumed his occupation, and usual mode of living.

A child, aged 8 months, was running down with diarrhœa, probably from teething. The belly was distended, skin hot, stools frequent and somewhat profuse, greenish and acrid, attended with colic, restlessness, anxiety and thirst, with no appetite. Excoriation of the parts and prolapsus ani. A single dose of Merc. viv. 12 in trit., was given at night. The following day the child was altogether better, had no more diarrhœa, and required no more medicine.

## REFORM IN MEDICINE.

(Continued from p. 18.)

Having shown, from the recent writings of prominent men in the medical profession, that a reform in the medical art is necessary, and essential to its preservation, we proceed to expose, as definitely as we can, the means proposed by them to effect it.

Says Dr. Forbes, after having fully exposed and severely commented upon the errors and mischiefs of the present system of medical practice:

"The foregoing elucidations, it will not be doubted, disclose a lamentable state of things; but it is not a state to be despaired of; much less is it one to be concealed as something disgraceful. It is more our misfortune than our fault that it is as it is; but if it were our fault, still it ought to be made known. Here, as in morals, the more sensibly we feel our defects, the more openly and heartily we confess them, the more likely are we to get rid of them."

"And we flatter ourselves that there is yet enough of young blood and energy and wisdom in our ranks, to redeem the past, and to achieve that glorious REGENERATION, which

has been long announced by infallible signs and portents in these later days. Old as we are, we yet hope to see raised the standard of 'Young Physic,' though we cannot expect to see it furlled, after the destined victory is won."

As corollaries the Dr. sets down "almost at random (as he says) a few of the various considerations that press upon us, touching the many things to be thought of and done, the manifold evils to be abated, the manifold benefits to be achieved," &c., from which we extract the following:

"To ascertain the natural course and event of diseases, when uninterrupted by artificial interference.

"To reconsider and study afresh the physiological and curative effects of all our therapeutic agents, with a view to obtain more positive results than we now possess.

"To endeavor to establish what diseases are curative and what are not; what are capable of receiving benefit from medical treatment and what are not; what treatment is the best, the safest, the most agreeable; when it is proper to administer medicine, and when to refrain from administering it," &c. &c.

"To endeavor to substitute for the monstrous system of Polypharmacy now universally prevalent, one that is vastly more simple, more intelligible, more agreeable, and, it may be hoped, one more rational, more scientific, more certain, and more beneficial.

"To endeavor to enlighten the public mind as to the actual powers of medicines, with a view to reconciling them to simpler and milder plans of treatment.

"Lastly, and above all, to bring up the medical mind to the standard necessary for studying, comprehending, appreciating and exercising the most complex and difficult of the arts that are based on a scientific foundation,—the art of practical Medicine. And this can only be done by elevating, in a tenfold degree, the preliminary and fundamental education of the Medical practitioner."

Says Prof. Bartlett: "The first essential condition of this advancement (i. e., positive therapeutical knowledge)—the accurate diagnosis of disease—has, to a good degree, been fulfilled. The first element in the problem to be solved has been ascertained; and we accordingly find, that the attention of many of the best minds in the profession is now turning in this direction. This is the natural course of events. The seat, the character, the regular march, and the tendency of the disease, having

been first ascertained, the next thing to be done is to find out the best methods of preventing, of modifying, and of curing it. This is the great mission which now lies immediately before us; this is to constitute the great work of the next and succeeding generations.

"Prominent among the therapeutical improvements that have been made, is the change which has taken place in the use of violent and dangerous remedies. I am inclined to regard this change as one of the greatest blessings which modern medical observation has conferred upon the human race; and it is but fair to admit that, absurd as the system of Homœopathy is, it has, nevertheless, done great good by its practice.

"The real agency of art is more generally appreciated than formerly; and its arrogant pretensions much more truly estimated and understood. It is coming every day to be more clearly seen, that perhaps its most universal and beneficent function consists in the removal and avoidance of those agents, the action of which is to occasion or to aggravate disease; thus giving the recuperative energies of the system their fullest scope and action, and trusting to them, when thus unembarrassed, for the cure of the disease."

We now quote from "Extracts of Correspondence" with Dr. Forbes:

"I have long deprecated the idea that medicines are necessary in the treatment of all diseases. I have urged that it was the business of the physician to take care of the sick, pointing out that *care* and *cure* were the same word originally,—and that in taking care it was much more important that he should endeavor to control the influence of the common agents, than that of the occasional ones, called medicines;—that he should attend to the non-naturals,—those things which nature does not decide, but leaves to our choice,—that he, the physician, should do it, and not leave it to the nurse or the grand-mother.

"Your remarks on Homœopathy I read with the deepest interest; they open to the eye a new and beautiful view of medical practice; beautiful, because it harmonizes with natural laws which we are all well acquainted with, but greatly neglect.

"I have learnt to look upon the prevention of disease—upon hygiene in its most extended sense—as the true aim of the medical man.

"One of the first points that the junior members of the profession will be anxious to receive advice upon in reference to the *Natural Histo-*

ry School, will be to know how far they are to follow the hereditary doctrines, and in how far they dare trust their own discretion, in treading in the footsteps of nature. It is no trifling matter for a beginner to be cast upon the sea of doubt without a sure beacon to steer his skiff by.

"For several years past I have been very much of an expectant practitioner, and I have no reason to be dissatisfied, so far as my patients are concerned; but in private practice it is no easy matter to follow always your own judgment—so wedded are the laity, generally, to an opposite and telling system.

"The only question is to determine to what extent the giving of medicine and recovery from disease are connected as cause and effect, and how such determination is to be effected. It may be that the only way is to make a *tabula rosa*, and begin the study of disease apart,—first, by ascertaining from observation the natural history of disease, and then determining, by experiment, how far we can modify diseases by interference.

"Much has been said and written about medical reform, but in my opinion none is so desirable or would contribute so much to the welfare of the medical profession, as an elevation of the mental character of its members; this I think would be the best if not the only remedy for the present defects and follies connected with the practice of medicine. There should be required from all those who enter the medical profession, a knowledge of authors whose works tend to develop the reasoning powers—such as those of Bacon, Locke, Paley, &c.

"The really and, to my mind, only feasible plan of reform and improvement will consist in elevating the standard of our professional character, morally and intellectually, and teaching men the value of great principles as a guide through what must, in every individual case, be more or less an experimental procedure.

"One great cause of the present imperfect state of medicine is the ignorance of the public as regards the important principles which ought to guide the practitioner; they are pleased with what appeals to their senses rather than to their reason. The *opus operosum* of medicine has, in every age, been more captivating to all classes, than the recommendation of simple means which reason and experience may dictate as best adapted to their case. When Elisha told Naaman the leper to wash

in the Jordan for the cure of his disease, he was wroth at the *simplicity* of the remedy, and went away and said, 'Behold! I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place and remove the leper'; and such unfortunately is the state at present of the public mind, that, in the majority of cases, a medical man cannot do justice to himself or give satisfaction to his patients, if he does not practice a little of the 'art and mystery' of Medicine."

[To be Continued.]

#### *Address of the Faculty of the Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati. 1847.*

We commend this address to the notice of those allopathic doctors who have set their faces against any improvement in the medical art; who are so blind that they will not see the absurdity and mischief of the old practice; or who, seeing its errors, are too proud to acknowledge them, and too prejudiced to believe that any good can come out of Nazareth.

That reformation in the practice of medicine must be had, is admitted by too many of its best professors, and is too generally seen and felt to be required, to warrant or to excuse this spirit of dogged conservatism, or to justify the open warfare, the low wit and vulgar ridicule, and the clandestine misrepresentations practiced by many who lack the discrimination of their masters in the profession to see its faults, or who are too conceited to test the merits of a new discovery not originating with themselves.

Their treatment of Homœopathy, which offers to them a fundamental scientific principle in medicine, acknowledged to be wanting and to be looked for, is as unwarrantable, as it is unwise. There is an argument of a practical nature which will reach these gentlemen. It is being presented too palpably and too successfully not to be felt and heeded, but we would that they might give heed to considerations of a more scientific and meritorious character.

The formation of allopathic associations for the avowed purpose of dissociating themselves from their brethren of the homœopathic school; the illegal expulsion of its members from the medical societies; the imputation cast upon their motives; the false representations of their practice, and the jeers and jests with

which they would fain make merry at the expense of their principles,\* and their public and private labors to extend a knowledge of them, marks well the spirit of allopathy, and is a futile and inglorious attempt to revive that of days gone by. Says Dr. Forbes: "The thoroughly radical change in the theories and practice of medicine, propounded in the system of Hahnemann,—a change equivalent to a total reversal and subversion of almost all that had preceded it,—naturally roused great and general opposition to it in the minds of medical men. By most medical men it was taken for granted that the system was a visionary and fanciful hypothesis, disconnected with facts of any kind, and supported by no processes of logical inference. And yet nothing can be farther from the truth. Whoever examines the homœopathic doctrines must admit not only that the system is an ingenious one, but that it professes to be based on a most formidable array of facts and experiments. And it is but an act of simple justice to admit that there exists no grounds for doubting that Hahnemann was as sincere in his belief of the truth of his doctrines as any of the medical systematists who preceded him, and that many at least of his followers have been and are sincere, honest, and learned men.

"On these grounds it appears to us unreasonable that the claims of Homœopathy, regarded as a system of medical doctrine, ought to be admitted so far as to entitle it to investigation at least, and we have no more right to reject the evidence supplied in its favor by its professors, than we have to reject any other evidence in favor of any other medical doctrine, theoretical or practical. If it came before us as a mere theory, it would be unnecessary to waste time in the discussion of its merits. But Homœopathy comes before us in a much more imposing aspect, and claims our attention on ground which cannot be gainsaid. It presents itself as a new art of medicine, as a mode of practice utterly at variance with that long established in the world; and claims the notice of mankind on the irresistible grounds of its superior power of curing diseases and preserving human life. And it comes before us now, not in the garb of a suppliant, unknown and helpless, but as a conqueror, powerful, famous and triumphant."

Of a just and discriminating spirit like this

the homœopathist has nothing to complain, while he anxiously covets the investigation to which his principles are declared to be entitled.

From that spirit of exclusiveness, denunciation and ridicule which less enlightened, liberal and honest minds cherish toward Homœopathy, her disciples have nothing to fear—the truth is already triumphing in the rapid spread of the divine art among the former votaries of Allopathy.

We quote from the Address:

"We hold that it is not only the right, but the duty of every citizen to investigate, and, if possible, to improve that department of knowledge which he attempts to reduce to practice by a regular course of instruction. We hold that he who attempts to impart instruction in any science or art, while he is conscious of its errors and imperfections, and yet makes no effort whatever to escape those errors, is to some extent chargeable with the evils which arise from this neglect. In this spirit we have looked on medical science, as a science very imperfect, yet in hopeful progress, and susceptible of being rendered accurate and satisfactory. In this light it has been regarded by the various eminent men who have contributed the materials of its present structure, and thus it must be regarded by all who are capable of advancing its usefulness and truth. But, unfortunately, there are many whose mental indolence and stubbornness of opinion, or pride of position, render them averse to any remarkable, sudden, or great advancement. Every great discovery—every change in the philosophy or practice of the profession, no matter how reasonable or how much needed, generally meets for a few years the sturdy opposition of such minds. There are many who will not investigate—there are others who are interested against changes, and those who do, receive any important improvement at first, often find themselves marked out as suspected persons, and hindered in their professional success; or, if they are not very cautious, completely excommunicated from the circles of the more conservative portion, as if they had been guilty, not of free, candid investigation, but of some dishonorable crime.

"The writings and practice of a learned German physician, Dr. Hahnemann, have been investigated by many of the medical profession, including some of its distinguished professors in Europe, and they have consi-

\* See Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, August 28.

entiously recognized their truth. But all who have thus embraced the Homœopathic practice, from a conviction of its superiority to the old system, have found themselves not only opposed, excommunicated and ridiculed, but even denounced as knavish impostors, notwithstanding their endeavors to submit the system to fair and public trial, and notwithstanding the undeniable skill, learning, and high personal character of many of the followers of Hahnemann, who were converts from the old system.

"We believe that this course of denunciation for difference of opinion, is wrong, if not criminal, and that they who endeavor to prevent the investigation and public testing of any improvement in science, should be regarded as conspirators against the welfare of society."

"While laboring as we believe, and as a large number of the people are experimentally convinced, for the improvement of medicine, freely communicating our experience to others, we are met by the concerted opposition of various medical colleges and leaders of the medical profession, endeavoring to establish a rigid discipline, which shall cut off all professional or personal intercourse between the numerous body of new school practitioners, and the more numerous body who have been educated in the old system of practice. The action of these gentlemen is based upon the assumption that the use of mercury, the lancet and various drastic medicines is so unequivocally necessary, that no one can even recommend or countenance any material change from this unscientific method, without being guilty of that which ought to degrade him as a physician and as a man.

"Were we disposed to imitate their arrogance and folly, we might with far greater justice denounce their professional bigotry, and their stubborn adherence to a system of practice so clumsy and inefficient at the best, and often so terribly pernicious. But believing the great body of the profession to be honest in their convictions and misled by the authority of their teachers, we would rather deplore than denounce their insatiation. As to the combinations of medical leaders against innovation, we respond to their puerile and insolent regulations prescribed to their followers, by the simple suggestion, that we could never find it necessary to propose such regulations, unless we were endeavoring to force upon the public a system repugnant to reason and con-

trary to experience. When the most learned of our class of physicians shall be compelled to admit, like one of the most eminent old school physicians, that '*in a large proportion of the cases treated*' by physicians on our system, '*the disease is cured by nature and not by them*,' and that in '*not a small proportion, the disease is cured by nature in spite of them*,' and that '*in a considerable proportion of diseases it would fare as well or better with patients*,' '*if all remedies, at least all active remedies, especially drugs, were abandoned*,'—when we are placed in this humiliating position by the admissions of our friends, we too may find many arbitrary regulations necessary to uphold our system against the power of free investigation.

"The more liberal portion of the profession on the other hand, perceive that medical doctrines are changing annually, and that while the profession generally are abandoning the excessive use of mercury and the lancet, it is folly to denounce those who have advanced farther in the same career of improvement. To those who thus favor free investigation we tender the confident assurance that public opinion demands reform in medicine, and that a liberal course alone can receive the public approbation."

### MALIGNANT DYSENTERY.

Lowell, August 24th, 1847.

DRS. KIRBY & SNOW—

We are in the midst of a malignant epidemic Dysentery in Lowell. Within the last four weeks, more than one hundred cases have terminated fatally in this place, of thirty thousand inhabitants. Suffice it to say, Homœopathy is triumphant in the treatment of it; every case yielding like a charm to medicine, given according to the principle *Similia similibus*. Dr. S. and myself are full of business, and the difference in practice of the two schools is apparent, both to the profession and the people, who are fast adopting it. I have never before seen so severe and malignant disease yield so satisfactorily. The principal remedies have been Aconite, Colocynth, Mer. vir., Mer. corr., and Nux vom. I may, at some future time, give some more particulars, and hope some one more able and experienced will do so, of the same disease, as it is prevalent in other places.

Yours, truly,

D. HOLT, M. D.

### JAHRS NEW MANUEL.

Vol. 2, No. 2 of this work, has been issued punctually from the press of Mr. Radde, 322 Broadway.

Dr. Jas. A. Washington of this city, died on the 30th ult. Dr. W. was a highly respectable and intelligent Physician of the allopathic School.

We regret to note the death of Dr. G. M. Taft of New Orleans. He was of the homœopathic school of medicine. From a letter to us, by his friend Mr. B. F. Simms, we learn, that Dr. T. died on 10th ult. of Yellow Fever. He had treated yellow fever patients, previously to his own sickness, all of which he cured. But alas! there was no Physician of his own school, to treat him.

Communications from Dr. W.E. Payne and Dr. Peleg Clark, have been received, and will appear in our next number.

### SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

### CLEVELAND HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Up stairs, corner Superior st. and Public Square. B. H. BARTLETT respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines; Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Hering's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 500 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.